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***PERMANENT MISSION
OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE***

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Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

I would also like to thank the Lithuanian Chairmanship, the Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities and our Czech hosts for organizing the Forum. The interrelated topics such as energy and transport are indeed pertinent issues to discuss at the Forum. I would also like to thank the distinguished speakers for their opening remarks and Ambassador Jan Kubis, UN Under Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Environmental Commission for Europe, for his keynote address, which have given a valuable insight for the intensive discussions we will pursue here during the following three days.

Not only the existing circumstances, but also our responsibility towards next generations require strategic planning and long term vision in both energy and transport issues. None of the challenges in these areas can be effectively tackled solely on national basis. Therefore, international cooperation and coordination is more than necessary, given the density and the urgency of difficulties before us.

I believe that the OSCE provides a unique forum both with its comprehensive approach to security and its inclusive composition. In our endeavor to determine the role of the OSCE in

these spheres, comparative advantages should serve as guiding principles with a view to offering meaningful contribution and avoiding unnecessary duplication.

In this respect, OSCE, bringing together producer, transit and consumer countries, could well set the scene for an in depth discussion on energy security. We believe that, security related aspects of energy issues, such as the protection of critical energy infrastructure, are important matters that deserve the political attention of the participating States.

Sharing experiences and best practices on sustainable energy solutions is another component of our work in the enhancement of energy security. Today it is well accepted that the existing carbon based energy structure is not sustainable in the long run, due to the threat of global climate change. Furthermore, the fact that most countries are dependent on imports for carbon based energy resources makes these resources a concern, in terms of energy supply security. These concerns have made the utilization of renewable energy a top priority throughout the world. Being a country with a rapid increase in the energy demand during the last 10 years in the OECD region, Turkey is also trying to increase the percentage of renewables in its energy mix. We are planning to obtain 30% of total electricity production from renewable energy by 2023. At the same time, we support international initiatives regarding the promotion and the worldwide utilization of renewable energy resources. In this context, Turkey became a founding member of International Renewable Energy Agency in 2009.

On this occasion, I would like to express our appreciation to the UNECE, for the comprehensive study to be presented to the Forum, on the review of implementation of OSCE commitments on energy efficiency.

Similar to energy, transport is another sphere where international cooperation is indispensable. And OSCE, again, provides a valuable platform for discussing security and sustainability of transport. In addition to contributing to economic wealth, growth in the volume of transport activities also creates energy scarcity, increases greenhouse gas emissions and contributes to the environmental degradation. The fact that more than half of the oil produced is spent for global transport activities and that a quarter of all the carbon dioxide emissions from human activities is generated by these activities, speaks for itself. This brings us to the conclusion that clean and new technologies and energy efficiency are key factors in

achieving transport sustainability. Needless to say, promoting good governance, as well as simplification of border crossing procedures and harmonization of regulations on transport and trade are also crucial factors in this respect.

A relevant example on the part of Turkey, would be the modernization of border gates across Turkey within the framework of “build-operate-transfer” model, by the “Customs and Tourism Enterprises” established in partnership with the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey. The renewal process is based on public private partnership projects. The outcome of these modernization projects has been a more rapid and effective service to customers as well as four times more rapid border crossing models. At the same time, it has been possible to combat smuggling and illegal trafficking more effectively. Another initiative of this institution is the joint control models or “single window” system, to be implemented in the future, whereby the certificates would be controlled jointly, relevant checks would be carried out only by the incoming authority and the information would be simultaneously shared in an electronic database, which will significantly increase the efficiency at border crossing procedures.

Turkey, being at the crossroads of continents, has been trying to contribute to energy and transport security, through various projects and initiatives, aiming at providing a secure and sustainable linkage for world markets of distant geographies.

I am confident that, the deliberations and discussions during the sessions will help to elucidate our Organization’s role and added value in the international efforts directed towards energy and transport security. The identification of comparative advantages of each organization and diverting the limited resources and energy to the areas where those advantages exist, will be the key for effective and successful international cooperation in this regard.

Thank you.